The Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have represented for enhancement in the current rates of royalty on coal fixed on 11.10.94.

The existing average royalty rate on coal in India is one of the highest in the World. There has been a steep increase in consumption of imported coal in the recent years. Even though the cost of Indian coal is much lower than the cost of imported coal, high freight charges and a high royalty levy have diminished the competitiveness of domestic coal within the country vis-a-vis imported coal. This perspective will be kept in view while taking a decision in the matter of any further increase in the existing rates of coal royalty.

सी॰ आई॰ एल॰ द्वारा मशीनों और उपकरणों का आयात किया जाना

2327. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) कोल इंडिया लि॰ की विभिन्न कंपनियों द्वारा वर्ष 1996-97 से 1998-99 तक प्रतिवर्ष कोयला खनन और परिवहन हेतु आयात की गई मशीनों और उपकरणों का कुल मूल्य कितना है;

(ख) कितनी-कितनी आयातित मशीनें और उपकरण किन-किन कंपनियों को उपलब्ध कराए गए;

(ग) 28 फरवरी, 1999 तक कौन-कौन सी मशीनों और उपकरणों का उपयोग आरंभ नहीं किया गया; और

(घ) अनावश्यक आयात के क्या कारण हैं और इसके लिए जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध की गई कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) वर्ष 1996-97 से 1998-99 तक के दौरान कोल इंडिया लि॰ द्वारा आयातित उपकरण और मशीन (प्रस्तुत आर्डर सहित) की कुल कीमत का ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है:—

वर्ष	राशि (लाख रु॰ में)
1996-97	2363.32
1997-98	8802.81
1998-99	102538.16 (विश्व बैंक सहित)

(ख) और (ग) इस संबंध में विवरण निम्न है:—

कंपनी	उन उपकरणों की संख्या, जिन्हें आयात किया जाना है और जिनके लिए आर्डर दिए गए हैं।	अब तक उपकरण की सं.	उपयोग में आने वाले उपकारण की संख्या	चालू किए जाने वाले उपकरण की संख्या
1996-97				
म॰को॰लि॰	5	1	1	शून्य
ई॰को॰लि॰	1	1	1	शून्य
सा॰ई॰को॰लि॰	1	1	1	शून्य
1997-98				
ना॰ को॰ लि॰	4	4	4	शून्य
म॰ को॰ लि॰	18	18	18	शून्य
ई॰ को॰ लि॰	1	1	1	शून्य
सा॰ ई॰ को॰ लि॰	1	1	1	शून्य
से॰ को॰ लि॰	2	2	2	शून्य
वे॰ को॰ लि॰	2	2	2	शून्य
1998-99				
ना॰ को॰ लि॰	151	17	शून्य	17
सा॰ ई॰ को॰ लि॰	101	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य
से॰ को॰ लि॰	13	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य
म॰ को॰ लि॰	15	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य
वे॰ को॰ लि॰	9	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य
भा॰ को॰ को॰ लि॰	7	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य

(घ) इस संबंध में कोई अनावश्यक आयात नहीं किए गए हैं।

Securitising of Coal dues by CIL

2328. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government allowed CIL to securitise over Rs. 4000 crores of coal dues lying with the SEBs;

(b) whether seven months have passed but the scheme could not take off as the Finance Ministry was unable to decide the onus of the interest burden on the securities; and

(c) what is the decision of the Government in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The Finance Minister, in his speech while presenting the budget for 1998-99, had stated that the Government will evolve a guarantee scheme to cover the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards to major public sector undertakings. On the strength of such guarantees the concerned PSUs will be able to raise resources either by securitising these dues or directly entering the market for raising resources.

(b) and (c) Meetings were held between Ministries of Finance, Power and Coal and others to evolve a scheme of securitisation of outstanding dues owed by State Electricity Boards to the Central Public Sector Undertakings in coal and power sectors. However, several important issues need to be resolved. Inter-ministrial discussions are going on to resolve these issues in order to finalize this scheme.

Private Sector participation in Coal mining

2329. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited private sector participation in the coal mining sector;

(b) if so, which private sector companies are keen to participate in coal mining;

(c) the coal mines identified for lease to private sector in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the details of Governments programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended in 1976 and 1993. The companies engaged in the iron and steel production, power generation and such other end-uses as notified by the Central Government from time to time are allowed to do coal mining for capitive consumption. Under the powers conferred by the 1993 amendment, a Gazette Notification was issued on 15.3.96 to allow production of cement as an end-use for captive coal mining. The above amendments in the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 as well as the Gazette Notification of 15.3.96, apply both to the public sector and private sector and therefore identification of the coal blocks/sub-blocks for captive mining has not been done for private sector alone. So far, 20 coal blocks/ sub-blocks have been allotted to private sector companies for captive consumption in power generation and iron and steel production.

Keeping in view the projections made by the Committee on integrated Coal Policy about the gap between demand and production of coal in the IX and X Plan periods, a decision has been taken by the Government on 17.2.99, to further amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, in order to allow the Indian companies in the public and private sector to mine coal without the existing restriction of captive consumption. However, the Bill for amendment to the Act is yet to be introduced in the Parliament. Non-captive coal mining by the Indian companies, other than Coal India Limited, Singareni Collieries Company Limited and other Mineral Development Corporations/coal companies of the State Governments, is not possible unless the Bill for amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 receives legislative approval in the Parliament. It is, therefore, premature to formulate any Government programme for allocation of coal blocks to Indian companies in public and private sector for non-captive coal mining.

Vacancy for the post of Junior Overman in ECL

2330. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ECL had notified the vacancy of Junior Overman, vide its letter No. ECL/CMD/C-6B(R)/95/86 dated 8th December, 1995, addressed to employment officer, Barakar, District Burdwan, West Bengal; and